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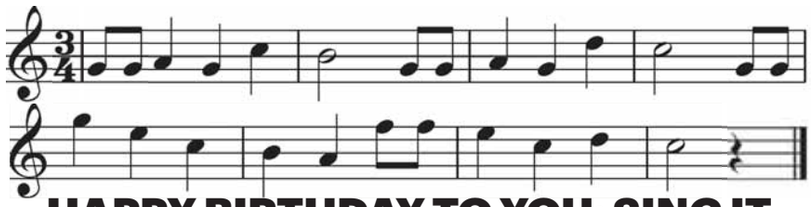
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'THIS IS NOT DEFEAT'

Court orders protesters to steer clear of four streets

metroNEWS

Polls showing tight races in key ridings

ELECTION 2015

Numbers suggest support has gone up for Liberals

Michael Woods
Metro | Ottawa

Liberal support is on the rise in the capital, but Conservatives are still leading in two ridings the Liberals are hoping to win, according to new polls released Wednesday.

The results of the polls, which were conducted by Environics Research and covered 31 federal ridings across Canada, show the Liberals leading in two ridings held by Conservatives since 2006.

In Orleans, Liberal candidate Andrew Leslie leads Conservative incumbent Royal Galipeau by 15 points.

In Ottawa West-Nepean, Liberal candidate Anita Vandenbeld leads Conservative candidate Abdul Abdi by four points, 39-35.

However, Conservatives are leading in another two ridings considered to be Tory strongholds, though the races are close.

In Kanata-Carleton, Conservative candidate Walter Pamic leads Liberal candidate Karen McCrimmon by seven points, 44-37.

In Nepean, Conservative candidate Andy Wang leads Liberal candidate Chandra Arya by six points.

The poll was commissioned by Ecology Ottawa and Leadnow, an independent advocacy organization.

The results have higher margins of error than national polls because fewer people were surveyed.

Leadnow is encouraging voters in swing ridings to support the candidate with the best chance of defeating the Conservatives.

"A lot can happen between now and election day," said Graham Saul, Ecology Ottawa's executive director.

For Nepean, Orleans and Kanata-Carleton, about 560 people were surveyed, so the polls have a 4 per cent margin of error. Ottawa West-Nepean saw about 750 people surveyed, so the margin of error is 3.6 per cent.

"It's a mere snapshot in time," said Brenda Sharpe of Environics Research. "Polls like this are quite a ways out (from election day), so this doesn't really have predictive value."

The polls show the Liberals have gained about 10 points of overall support in the four ridings combined since 2011, while NDP and Green support is largely unchanged, Saul said.

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Suspect 'violent, easily agitated and tyrannical'

OTTAWA VALLEY

Court hears troubled past of man accused of triple slaying

Joe Lofaro
Metro | Ottawa

Basil Borutski, the 57-year-old man facing first-degree murder charges in the slayings of three women in the Ottawa Valley, has a troubled past that includes several criminal convictions.

Borutski was charged at a Pembroke courthouse Wednesday with three counts of first-degree murder following a five-hour manhunt that began the day before in the small community of Wilno and ended with his arrest on the outskirts of Ottawa.

The OPP discovered the bodies of Anastasia Kuzyk, 36, Carol Culleton, 66, and Natalie Warmerdam, 48, within hours of each other Tuesday.

While the rural towns of Killaloe, Wilno and Foyno come to grips with the brutal murder, snippets of his past relationships are now coming to light.

Court records from a 2011 civil proceeding between Borutski and his ex-wife, Mary Ann Borutski, show he had a rocky marriage that included allegations of domestic abuse and threats.

Their adult daughters told the court their father was "violent, easily agitated and tyrannical toward his family members," wrote Justice Rick Leroy in his Dec. 8, 2011, ruling.

His wife alleged "a steady regimen of domestic violence" in their on-and-off relationship, which started in 1982.

Borutski denied allegations of domestic violence, according to the ruling, and insisted he'd never been convicted of any charges in connection to what she was alleging.

Borutski lost his right hand, which was re-attached, after a work-related accident in Kitchener, according to the documents. He also suffered a back injury in a motor vehicle accident in 1994.

He appealed after being convicted of failing to provide a breath sample following a traffic stop on New Year's Day 2010.

He represented himself at trial where he gave the court a medical report describing him as someone with symptoms of "a recurrent anxiety disorder N.O.S.," according to a ruling from Ontario Superior Court Justice James. E. McNamara. The judge dismissed the appeal.

Records also show he was convicted in 2014 of theft of a vehicle, assault, choking, mischief of property, operating a motor vehicle while disqualified, two counts of breach of a probation order and possession of a firearm while prohibited.

Jean Maves, centre, stands in solidarity with others opposing violence against women at the courthouse in Pembroke on Wednesday, before Basil Borutski, who led police on a five-hour manhunt Tuesday, appeared in court. JUSTIN TANG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Charged man's brother speaks to media

The brother of a 57-year-old man charged with first-degree murder in the separate slayings of three women says Basil Borutski's family is angry and embarrassed about his alleged crimes.

"Right now, my heart just goes out to the families ... all our brothers and sisters, our hearts go out to all the victims," a weary-sounding Will Borutski said in an interview.

"We're all just in disbelief. Right now the only ones we're thinking about is the victims. The children, the families, the friends."

Two of the victims — 36-year-old Anastasia Kuzyk and Natalie Warmerdam, 48 — used to date his brother, Will Borutski said.

Basil Borutski made an appearance in court to answer to the charges. He was remanded in custody until Oct. 5.

The judge ordered him not to speak to a long list of family members and acquaintances.

Will Borutski said he'd had a falling-out with his brother about seven years ago, declining to provide details beyond saying there was a "disagreement."

As he struggled to gather his thoughts in Round Lake, an Ottawa Valley cottage-country hamlet, Will Borutski said his family is stunned by the arrest.

"There's anger, embarrassment," he said. "You just don't know what to make of the whole thing." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Court bans protesting cabbies from four roads

DISPUTE

City's, airport's injunction granted

Joe Lofaro
Metro | Ottawa

A Superior Court judge granted the city and the airport authority an injunction Wednesday that would ban protesting airport taxi drivers from blocking the Airport Parkway and other roads near the MacDonald Cartier Airport.

This is the second injunction the city has sought since the drivers went on strike on Aug. 11.

The airport authority's lawyer requested the new injunction be consolidated with a previous injunction granted by a judge on Aug. 14.

The new injunction goes beyond the Airport Parkway and bans taxi drivers from "blocking, obstructing, in referring with, or delaying pedestrian or which mar traffic in the Airport Parkway, Hunt Club Road, Uplands Drive, or Lester Road."

Wednesday's injection also bans protesting cabbies from driving on the Airport Parkway, Hunt Club Road, Upland Drive, or Lester Road "at such a slow rate of speed so as to impede or block the normal and reasonable movement of traffic."

Last month, the city won an injunction case which limited where the drivers could protest. It forced them to refrain from leaving a designated space in the arrival entrance outside.

The impetus behind the latest legal move from the city and the airport was a violent incident on the parkway on Sept. 8, where a small group of protesting drivers attacked a Blueline cab by smashing the rear windshield.

Three taxi drivers were charged with mischief over $5,000 and possession of a dangerous weapon in that case, which is before the court.

Airport Taxi YOW drivers are protesting a proposed airport pickup fee increase from $1.50 to about $5.

The fees charged to drivers will rise from $345 to $1,300 per month, according to Unifor.

Abed Madi, chairman of the airport taxi union, told reporters at the courthouse that his cabbies will continue to protest on the side of Airport Parkway.

Amrik Singh, president of Unfior Local 1688, said even though the city won the injunction, "this is not defeat," and called the judge's decision a fair ruling.

"At the end of the day a judge is not going to resolve this dispute. Both parties have to sit down at the table and resolve all the outstanding issues," said Singh. "The protest will continue until we have a resolution."

Amrik Singh, president of Unfior Local 1688, said he agreed with the judge's decision, but urged Coventry Connections to go back to the negotiating table. JOE LOFARO/METRO

IN BRIEF

City hosting Syrian refugee sponsorship info session

The city is hosting a public information session next month for those interested in learning how to sponsor Syrian refugees coming to Canada.

The Mayor's Public Forum will be held at Jean Pigott Place at City Hall beginning at 5 p.m. on Oct. 1.

The event will start with an information session led by organizations involved in the sponsorship and resettlement of refugees.

There will also be a panel presentation from 5:30 to 7 p.m. about how members of the public can get involved in resettlement efforts.

Lawyers from the University of Ottawa's Refugee Sponsorship Support Program and the Canadian Association of Refugee Lawyers will also host a legal clinic from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Mayors in other cities across Canada have pledged to take in refugees from the war-torn country. JOE LOFARO/METRO

RETIREMENT

City manager calling it quits

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

City manager Kent Kirkpatrick, who occupies one of the most important positions at city hall, announced his retirement Wednesday.

Kirkpatrick has held the position for 11 years and is stepping down because of his worsening multiple sclerosis.

"We very much wanted to have Mr. Kirkpatrick stay on, he's done a remarkable job for us," said Mayor Jim Watson at city council on Wednesday.

"He has taken the decision and I fully support and respect that first and foremost his health and his own well-being must come before anything else," he added.

Kirkpatrick has worked in municipal affairs since 1983, beginning as public servant in nearby Carleton Place. He began working for Ottawa-Carleton in 1985 and was appointed city manager in 2004.

"We as a city government have been privileged to be served by someone with such an exceptionally high level of integrity, professionalism, commitment and work ethic," Watson said.

The national search for a new manager will begin shortly.

"The City of Ottawa is a prestigious assignment," said Watson. "We're a well-run city, we have a good credit rating, we have good relationships between management and council and the quality of life we have in this city is second to none."

NOW HIRING

Watson said bilingualism would be a requirement of the job, along with an understanding of major infrastructure projects and previous managerial experience.

COURT

Police charge man in connection with Orleans pharmacy robbery

An Ottawa man has been charged in connection with an early morning pharmacy robbery.

Ottawa police say a man entered a pharmacy along the 1900 block of Portobello Boulevard in Orleans at about 5:55 a.m. on Sept. 22.

They say the man was wearing a mask. Police say the man demanded, and was given, prescription drugs. He then fled the store on foot.

Police say they arrested the man a short time later without incident.

Duncan McCallum, 30, has been charged with one count of robbery, one count of wearing a disguise, three counts of breach of recognizance and four counts of breach of probation.

He appeared in court on Tuesday and will appear again today. METRO

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Raphael Morin (Green), Nancy Tremblay (NDP) and Andrew Leslie (Liberal) address senior citizen matters at an all-candidates debate at the Shenkman Arts Centre on Wednesday afternoon. Conservative incumbent Royal Galipeau didn't attend the event, though organizers left his chair, far left, on the stage. MICHAEL WOODS/METRO

Orléans candidates square off in debate

ELECTION 2015

Incumbent skips appearance as retirees' issues take precedence

Michael Woods
Metro | Ottawa

As the Orléans federal party candidates took the stage to debate retirees' issues on Wednesday, there was one notable absence.

"You will note that there is one party that will not be represented," said debate host Jean-Guy Soulière, director at the National Association of Federal Retirees. "It is too bad."

That was Conservative incumbent Royal Galipeau, who skipped the debate at the Shenkman Arts Centre on Wednesday.

He was represented on stage by an empty chair — a move by the organizers that highlighted his absence.

That left Andrew Leslie, the retired lieutenant general and star Liberal candidate, and NDP candidate Nancy Tremblay, a federal public servant, free to attack the Conservatives' record at will.

"The gentleman who is not here today … my intention is not to be overly partisan because he is not here to defend himself," Leslie said at one point, before criticizing Galipeau for his vote against a national mental health strategy.

> **When Liberals talk about change, they mean changing carpets and curtains in ministers' offices.**
>
> NDP candidate Nancy Tremblay

Green Party candidate Raphael Morin also participated in the debate, which covered topics important to retirees such as pensions, health care and support for veterans.

The candidates outlined their parties' plans on issues facing retirees. Matters ranged from the Canada Pension Plan (they all vowed to expand it), moving the retirement age back to age 65 from age 67 (the NDP and Liberals would do it, the Greens would study it) and veterans affairs.

The debate was non-confrontational until near the end, when Tremblay said calls for a Liberal strategic vote to avoid vote-splitting was a symptom of arrogance.

"The arrogance. Aren't you sick of it? It's the same arrogance that Canadians rejected (in 2011)," she said. "There is no change when you vote for them. It's still more of the same."

Leslie responded by saying that NDP leader Tom Mulcair wants to make cuts to continue Stephen Harper's fiscal plan, rather than investing at a time of historically low interest rates, as the Liberals are advocating.

Morin, for his part, asked voters to get to know his party's platform.

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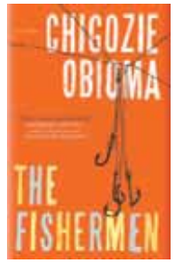

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RETIREMENT

Employers want Ontario pension details

More than 100 Ontario companies are expressing "serious reservations" about the new provincial pension plan and its impact on jobs and the economy.

Employers including Maple Leaf Foods, IBM, Ford of Canada, Magna International and Union Gas signed a letter by the Ontario Chamber of Commerce urging the government to quickly clarify some details of the new pension plan.

The Ontario Retirement Pension Plan (ORPP) will require mandatory contributions from employers and workers at any company that does not already offer a workplace pension. Companies will have to pay premiums of 1.9 per cent for each employee, up to $1,643 a year, and the workers will pay an equal amount.

The Chamber of Commerce says the economic impact of the provincial pension remains the primary concern of employers, warning that 44 per cent of its members say they will reduce their payroll or hire fewer workers. The Liberal government is required to provide a cost-benefit analysis of the plan by the end of the year.

The Liberals clarified some plan rules in August, saying Defined Contribution plans with a minimum annual contribution rate of eight per cent, and where employers match at least 50 per cent, would be considered "comparable" to the ORPP and thus exempt them from the new plan.

Under the Ontario plan, which is designed to mirror the Canada Pension Plan, a person making $45,000 a year would contribute $2.16 a day, as would the employer, giving the employee $6,410 a year for life, starting at age 65.

The plan will be phased in, starting Jan. 1, 2017 for companies with 500 or more workers, expanding to companies with 50 to 499 workers in 2018 and to employers with fewer than 50 workers in 2019.

Benefits will be paid to eligible recipients starting in 2022.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk speaks to media after tabling her report in the legislature last December.
ANDREW FRANCIS WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Home care 'needs hard look': AG

HEALTH

Community access centres spend $2.4B annually

Ontario's auditor general says the Liberal government "needs to take a hard look" at the $2.4 billion spent annually by community care access centres and their private contractors.

The 14 CCACs co-ordinate home and community-based nursing care, therapy and supports to about 700,000 patients outside of hospitals, and in some cases provide direct care.

Auditor Bonnie Lysyk disputes claims that 92 per cent of their spending goes to direct patient care, and says it's closer to 61 per cent when defined as actual face-to-face treatment.

She says the costs-per-client-served by CCACs range between $2,892 and $3,775, and nurses they directly employ are paid up to $15 an hour more than nurses at the service agencies that they use.

Lysyk also says eligibility criteria for complex care patients discharged from hospitals vary between community care access centres, and nearly half the people don't get treatment within 24 hours as required.

The community care centres have 264 contracts with 160 third-party providers, including private companies and non-profit organizations, but the auditor says they pay inconsistent rates for contracted services.

"One provider of personal support services charged $48.98 per hour in one geographic area and $29.50 per hour in another geographic area within the same CCAC," wrote Lysyk. "In all, there are 14,000 distinct contracted rates for 94 different service categories." THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Ottawa residents feel less safe in daytime: Police survey

Ottawa residents feel less safe during the day on bike paths and while waiting for public transit, according to a new public survey by the Ottawa Police Service.

The 2015 survey was released Wednesday, offering a glimpse into the public's perceptions of the city and the police service.

The perception of safety on bike paths, bus stops, and in the downtown area in general dropped by 20 per cent, 18 per cent, and 21 per cent, respectively, compared to the last survey in 2012.

More than 80 per cent of respondents reported they were satisfied with the quality of service by the OPS and the level of trust in the force remained virtually the same at 61 per cent, compared to 2012.

Full survey results can be found at ottawapolice.ca.

JOE LOFARO/METRO

The former Miss Polygamy plays the Black Sheep Inn this Saturday in Wakefield. CONTRIBUTED

Partying over for Lost to the River

BACKSTAGE PASS

Band has a new name and a more mature sound

Trevor Greenway
Metro | Ottawa

It hasn't taken long for Lost to the River to gain a new level of exposure under its new moniker.

The former party band known as Miss Polygamy has revealed its alter ego for only a few months, and already the band is playing big festivals, esteemed music joints and scoring nods for notable awards on the big stage.

For lead singer Sean Tansey, the band's new direction is simply a result of their own growth both individually and collectively — a growth that has breathed a sigh of patience into the cadence of their once frantic soundscape.

"We were a party rock, blues rock band before and now we are more of a mature, folky, indie rock band... we call it Canadiana," says Tansey, adding that the other band members took on more of a role in writing the tunes on the brand new record.

"And we just spend a lot more time on it. If there is room for a solo, we won't just do whatever, we will actually take the time to write stuff out properly and take our time a lot more with the songwriting process."

Lost to the River has clearly grown new limbs on its new self-titled EP, released just last week during CityFolk. A fresh new sound carries throughout the album, spilling universal embrace and confidence to each and every one of its mantled mellifluous appendages. Its poised tone is what proves the band has matured, but the melodies are still sunny, sublime and sanguine.

"There is this giddy excitement amongst all of us," adds Tansey.

It's clear that Ottawa music fans aren't the only ones digging the new, all-grown-up Miss Polygamy, as the band just took home one of two Stingray Rising Star Awards after stellar performances at Marvest and CityFolk festival this past weekend.

And if you think Lost to the River is taking its foot off the gas, you had better buckle up. The band is taking a road trip up to the iconic Black Sheep Inn in Wakefield Saturday night for a date with St. John's "smorgasbord band" Ouroboros. The show starts at 8:30 p.m. with tickets $10 at the door.

IN BRIEF

Have you seen a man with a long face?

Police say the white man in his 50s entered a convenience store along the 300 block of McArthur Road at about 3:35 a.m., Tuesday.

He walked up to the cashier carrying a coffee and a sandwich before pulling out a handgun and forcing the cashier to the floor. He made off with cash, cigarettes and lottery tickets.

The man had a muscular build, a moustache, glasses and is described as having a "long face." METRO

FESTIVAL

Event encourages people to ride bikes

Ottawa's largest bicycle festival takes place this Friday, with live music, food and drinks at city hall.

The main feature of the festival is a 20-kilometre night cycling ride. Starting at 7:30 p.m., roads from city hall to the Experimental Farm will be closed to vehicle traffic so cyclists can enjoy a ride under the stars.

Animators and musicians will be scattered along the route.

Back at city hall, there will be a silent auction of products and services donated by several local businesses.

The festival is helping support several local, non-profit and charitable groups that encourage people to cycle.

If you'd like to register for the night tour, visit www.capitalvelofest.ca. Registration is free for children under the age of 12, while adults pay $15 and children over 12 pay $8. There's also a family rate available. METRO

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READY TO ENGAGE

Metro's coast-to-coast daily election series connects young, urban Canadians to the issues they care about

VOTER PROFILE

Name: Melanie Hnatyshyn **Age:** 31 **Riding:** Calgary Centre
Her issues: Refugees, energy, education, Senate reform

Pondering change in Conservative country

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
in Calgary

Melanie Hnatyshyn sits in the shadows of dozens of glassy downtown-Calgary highrises, in the financial heart of the oil industry, in a riding that's voted some shade of conservative blue for decades, and ponders change.

"I would say, yeah, I would say we need change. Sometimes just a new face, just maybe a new leader," she says, almost with a note of surprise.

Her tone is understandable, given the entrenched views of a city where, as she describes it, many inherit politics like they inherit family heirlooms.

Hnatyshyn (the "H" is silent) was born in Winnipeg and moved to Calgary for university. At 31, well into her career — she's a development engineer for a major energy company — and despite Calgary's progressive mayor, Naheed Nenshi, Hnatyshyn says some of her friends are wary of discussing alternate political views in a culture attached to the idea that federal right-wing politics are best for business.

"They feel like they can't maybe openly discuss things with the typical person in Calgary. That Conservative majority is just so prevalent."

Hnatyshyn hasn't decided who to vote for, or whether she's willing to vote strategically, but she has a shortlist of issues she's watching.

The first is the refugee crisis. She's heard how many Syrians the various leaders propose to bring in, but wants more detail on the plans, and fuller explanation of the Conservatives' response thus far. "If it's driven by economics and budget, it'd be nice if they explained that," she says.

A pragmatist and self-identified planner, Hnatyshyn's also looking for a party with a well-rounded vision for the future of the energy industry — one that offers more stability. "In the U.S., they're not as affected by the low oil prices as we are in Canada. They're trying to be energy independent and have a long-term view and have secure jobs, whereas Canada seems to be at the whim of the fluctuations of oil and gas market prices."

She'd also like politicians to tackle the imbalance between university costs and employment prospects. She'd like to see a strategic, and once again, long-term look at education and how to better funnel young people into paths that offer prospects, instead of joblessness or low-skilled work.

She mentions, finally, the tangled issue of Senate reform. She watched spokespeople for the three major parties discuss the subject on the news the other day.

"It seemed like all of them wanted to do something about reforming the Senate, but no one was holding themselves to any promises. You feel like if nobody's going to take a stand on the Senate, what does that say about all the parties? Politics on top of politics."

Aside from what each party is saying they'll do, Hnatyshyn is also trying to figure out how much she can trust politicians to deliver. She wonders about the Conservatives' about-face on fast-tracking Syrian refugees. But it's also informing her voting strategy. "Keep your mind open, because I don't know, maybe some of the parties will be more flexible depending on what they think people want to hear, right up until the election."

Rosemary Westwood is travelling across the country talking to young voters. Tomorrow she's in Edmonton.

Arts 'ignored' on economic stage

POLICY

Funding cuts prevail despite surge in GDP

Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Halifax

A familiar cloud of disappointment settles in for George Pothitos in what's shaping up to be yet another federal election with little mention of the arts on Canada's economic stage.

While the prime ministerial hopefuls travel the country, shaking hands and promising new economic growth, the award-winning artistic director of Neptune Theatre in Halifax busies himself with the latest production of the classic, Great Expectations.

But when the soft-spoken Pothitos sits down to discuss what's at stake when funding for the arts is largely ignored from the policy agenda, he pleads a business case, not a poem.

"We're not some handout," he says.

"The perception that it's charity has to cease. We have to look at (arts) as an investment."

In the past nine years, Pothitos says, the theatre's funding from the Canada Council for the Arts has been cut as the pool of money remains stagnant.

Arts and culture funding briefly flared up as an election issue in 2008 in response to the Conservatives having made nearly $45 million in cuts.

Performers appear on stage at Halifax's Neptune Theatre.
JEFF HARPER/METRO FILE

Pothitos believes that's ironic, considering the $7.37 million the theatre and its patrons — who dined at nearby restaurants, bars, and doled out cash at other businesses — pumped into Nova Scotia's economy during the 2013-14 season, according to the theatre's latest economic-impact study.

> **Sometimes giving money to the CBC and to Canada Council isn't quite enough.**
> George Pothitos

Another report, by the Canadian Arts Coalition, claims the arts sector was responsible for $48 billion dollars' worth of GDP in 2010, and employed 650,000 people across the country — just under four per cent of the country's total employment.

"It's typical to see the arts more or less ignored, for some reason," explains Jeff MacLeod, a professor of political studies at Mount Saint Vincent University.

Leaders of all political stripes "don't embrace (arts), they don't see it reflected in the population or the electorate, he says, "so there's no political gain; therefore, it dies from policy neglect."

Earlier this week, Liberal leader Justin Trudeau announced that investment in the Canada Council for the Arts would double to $360 million per year under a Liberal government, with $150 million extra invested in CBC/Radio Canada.

But, Pothitos says, "sometimes giving money to the CBC and to Canada Council isn't quite enough."

MacLeod agrees, explaining that a truly healthy arts policy would devise ways to nurture a base of creative minds. One idea he offers is a national strategy to hire art teachers in schools.

The risk, he warns, is a loss of Canadian culture itself.

BY THE NUMBERS

What art means to the economy

$36,300
Average Canadian Income

VS

$22,700
Average Canadian arts-worker income

10 MILLION
Canadians visited galleries and museums in 2010

60% of Canadians attended a live music event, theatre performance or cultural festival in 2010

$153.7 MILLION
in grants was doled out by the Canada Council for the Arts to artists and organizations across the country in 2013-2014

Canadians spent

$1.4 BILLION
on live performing arts

VS

$600 MILLION
on live sporting events

SOURCES:
CANADA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS
HILLS STRATEGIES RESEARCH INC.

Fahmy finally freed

EGYPT

Imprisoned Canadian granted pardon

Nearly two years after his arrest in Egypt on widely denounced terrorism charges, Canadian journalist Mohamed Fahmy walked out of prison a free man Wednesday, following a presidential pardon.

Fahmy and his colleague and co-accused Baher Mohamed were among 100 people — including dozens of prominent human rights activists — pardoned by President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi.

"I am free! This time for real! Cops dropped me at CAC my old high school in my prison garb. Party Time! #FreeAJStaff" Fahmy tweeted moments after his release.

Journalist Mohamed Fahmy hugs his wife Marwa Omara after being released in Cairo, Egypt, Wednesday.

AMR NABIL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Speaking later, Fahmy said he still "can't believe it."

"We have not digested the fact that we are free; we don't have to worry about anything else," he said. "Our families have suffered so much since the beginning of this trial."

His wife, Marwa Omara, said she was visiting Fahmy in prison when she learned the news of his pardon from a TV set that was on.

"I was scared for his health from too much joy," she said, adding the first thing they plan to do is have a large wedding party to celebrate their recent marriage.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/WITH FILES FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ELECTION 2015

Mulcair clarifies stance on niqabs

NDP Leader Tom Mulcair is urging tolerance and a calmer discussion about face coverings when applying for Canadian citizenship.

In a speech Wednesday, he said he backs a requirement that women show their faces at some point in the citizenship process — but not at the citizenship ceremony, as the Conservatives would hope.

"I understand that many view the niqab as a symbol of the oppression of women.

"And on that, let me be clear: No one has the right to tell a woman what she must — or must not — wear," Mulcair said.

"I am in agreement with the existing rule under which anyone seeking citizenship must uncover their face to identify themselves before swearing the oath, in accordance with their religious beliefs."

The Conservatives want women to be required to show their faces not only at a point during the process of applying for citizenship, but also during the citizenship ceremony itself.

The federal government is fighting a court ruling that threw out the requirement for uncovered faces at citizenship ceremonies.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

WHERE THE LEADERS ARE THURSDAY

● Conservative Leader Stephen Harper, NDP Leader Tom Mulcair, Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau and Green Leader Elizabeth May will all be in Montreal to participate in the French-language leaders' debate. Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles Duceppe will also be taking part.

Teaching position awaits at UBC

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

When Canadian journalist Mohamed Fahmy returns to Canada, he will take up a position as an adjunct professor at the University of British Columbia, the school announced Wednesday.

"We look forward to welcoming him to UBC's Vancouver campus this fall," interim president Martha Piper said in a news release Wednesday. "Mohamed's resiliency during this ordeal is an inspiration to us all."

Fahmy will share his experiences with students on the state of the Middle East as a journalist-in-residence at the university's Global Reporting Centre. He will also be a visiting fellow at the W. Maurice Young Centre for Applied Ethics.

He is writing a book about his experiences.

While it's unclear when Fahmy will return to Canada, Joanna Gislason, his lawyer in Vancouver, said her client is eager to get back on home soil.

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Clinton seeks climate-change pact

PRESIDENTIAL RACE

Proposal for U.S., Canada and Mexico an aggressive one

Hillary Clinton has released a policy paper that calls for a wide-ranging, co-ordinated Canada-U.S.-Mexico climate-change plan one day after announcing her opposition to the Keystone XL pipeline.

The position paper from the presidential contender added a new wrinkle Wednesday to an issue that has already inserted itself in two national elections.

Clinton wants to follow up her opposition to Keystone with a more ambitious climate program that includes immediately launching negotiations toward what she's called the North American Climate Compact.

It's a significantly more aggressive plan than the current continental working group on climate change, which aims to upgrade infrastructure but does not set out firm greenhouse-gas targets.

"Building a clean, secure and affordable North American energy future is bigger than Keystone XL or any other single project. That's what I will focus on as president," said the Clinton paper.

Clinton says she would seek strong national targets to cut carbon pollution; ensure all three countries demonstrate a commitment to climate action; and create accountability measures to make sure each country respects its commitments. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hillary Clinton speaks during a forum on health care in Des Moines, Iowa, on Tuesday. CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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COURTS

Would-be terrorists get life for VIA plot

Two men found guilty of terrorism charges after plotting to derail a passenger train were sentenced to life in prison Wednesday, as a Toronto judge found neither of them had expressed remorse for their offences.

Raed Jaser and Chiheb Esseghaier were found guilty in March on a total of eight charges.

Justice Michael Code found both men have not renounced their extremist beliefs, have not accepted responsibility for their offences and present questionable prospects for rehabilitation.

"I am satisfied that life imprisonment is the appropriate sentence," he said, noting the men would receive credit for time already spent in custody.

Jaser shook his head, closed his eyes at one point and held his face in one hand. Esseghaier appeared nonchalant, crossing his arms and leaning back in the prisoner's box as Code read out his 53-page sentencing decision.

"The life sentence doesn't have any meaning for me," the self-represented Esseghaier told Code.

Crown lawyers had asked for life sentences for both men and expressed their satisfaction.

"There was one message that was made loud and clear today," said Crown prosecutor Croft Michaelson. "That message is if you commit terrorist offences in Canada, with the intention of causing indiscriminate killing, you're going to pay a very heavy price."

Jaser's lawyer said he was disappointed with the outcome and already had instructions to appeal both Jaser's conviction and sentence.

"We do view it as excessive," John Norris said of the sentence, adding that Jaser was "somewhat stunned" by Wednesday's developments.

"He is a resilient man. He is trying to remain positive."

Jaser's lawyer had asked for a sentence of 5-1/2 years and argued mitigating factors in his client's case included entrapment, segregation during pre-trial custody and drug addiction. Code rejected those arguments in delivering his sentence.

2023
The year both men become eligible for parole.

"He has not yet accepted responsibility for the offences, not yet expressed remorse, not yet renounced his violent and racist beliefs," said Code.

In Esseghaier's case, a court-appointed lawyer who was ordered to assist the Tunisian national had asked Code to postpone sentencing until it could be determined if Esseghaier could be hospitalized and treated for a mental illness.

Code refused and said there was "no causal link" between Esseghaier's current mental state and his behaviour at the time of the offences.

"It is unprecedented to adjourn a sentencing hearing indefinitely to await treatment," Code said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

"My overall impressions of Mr. Jaser are that he is intelligent, devious and untrustworthy."

"The evidence is overwhelming that Esseghaier was not delusional or psychotic at the time of the offence."

Justice Michael Code

Rape-kit bag left in doorway

PATRICK KANE CASE

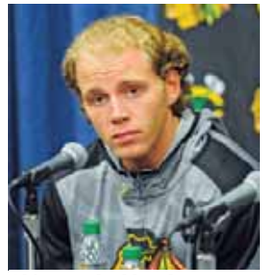
Lawyer for accuser alleges evidence tampering

The lawyer for a woman alleging she was sexually assaulted by Chicago Blackhawks forward Patrick Kane said Wednesday that an empty evidence bag was improperly left in the doorway of the woman's mother's home.

Thomas Eoannou said the bag at one point contained the rape kit used when the woman reported that she had been assaulted.

"Something seriously has gone amiss," Eoannou said.

Eoannou said the mother made the bizarre discovery when she came home from work for lunch on Tuesday afternoon. She found the bag folded up between a storm door and her front door, he said. "It could have been there a day and a half," he said, because the woman used the back door when she left for work that morning.



Chicago Blackhawks forward Patrick Kane. JOE RAYMOND/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

He said the bag is authentic, labelled with personal identifying information for the woman, details on where the rape kit was used and the initials of the nurses who administered the kit.

"I have never seen an evidence bag outside of a police lab, a prosecutor's office or a court room, let alone find one in a doorway of a rape victim's mother's home," he said.

Eoannou said he wants the FBI or state police to probe how the bag left the custody of investigators. It's not clear how the bag got to the mother's home or what effect it may have on the investigation, he said.

"We're hoping to find out how this happened and who had the incentive to modify or tamper with the evidence," he said. Eoannou said he hoped the person who delivered the bag would come forward.

Police have been investigating since the alleged Aug. 2 incident at Kane's off-season home in suburban Buffalo. Kane has not been charged.

Kane did not travel to Detroit with the rest of his team on Wednesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lawyer Thomas Eoannou holds up, at a news conference on Wednesday in Buffalo, N.Y., what he says is an empty evidence bag left improperly at a home. GARY WIEPERT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DATA BREACH

U.S. thinks hackers are from China

The number of people applying for or receiving security clearances whose fingerprint images were stolen in one of the worst U.S. government data breaches is now believed to be 5.6 million, not 1.1 million as first thought, the Office of Personnel Management announced Wednesday.

The agency was the victim of what the U.S. believes was a Chinese espionage operation that affected an estimated 21.5 million current and former federal employees or job applicants. The theft could give Chinese intelligence a huge leg up in recruiting informants inside the U.S. government, experts believe. It also could help the Chinese identify U.S. spies abroad, according to American officials. The White House has said it's going to discuss cybersecurity with Chinese President Xi Jinping when he visits President Barack Obama later this week.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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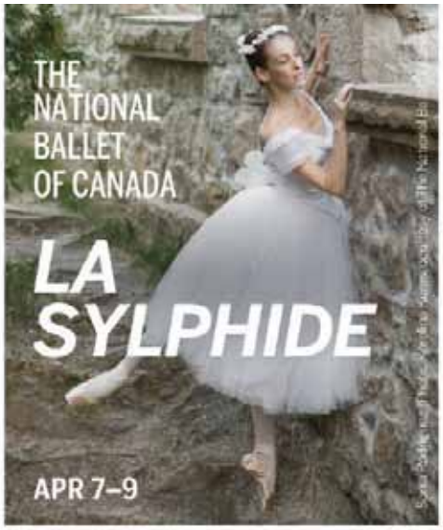

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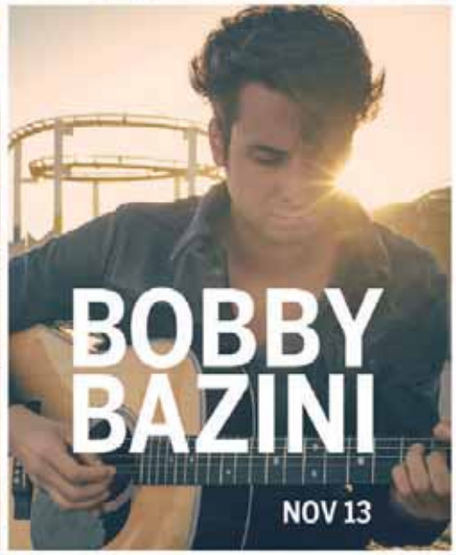

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SKY WATCH

Moon to put on a rare double

Get ready for a rare double feature this weekend, starring our very own moon.

A total lunar eclipse will share the stage with a so-called supermoon Sunday night or early Monday, depending where you are. That combination hasn't been seen since 1982 and won't happen again until 2033.

When a full or new moon makes its closest approach to Earth, that's a supermoon. Although still about 220,000 miles away, this full moon will look bigger and brighter than usual. In fact, it will be the closest full moon of the year, about 30,000 miles closer than the average distance. (The moon's orbit is far from a perfect circle.)

2018

There won't be another total lunar eclipse until 2018.

The full eclipse of the moon will last more than an hour and be visible, weather permitting, from North and South America, Europe, Africa and western Asia.

This weekend's eclipse marks the end of a tetrad, or series of four total lunar eclipses set six months apart. This series began in April 2014.

The 21st century will see eight of these tetrads, an uncommonly good run.

Observatories are marking the celestial event with public telescope viewings, although magnifying devices won't be necessary; the eclipse will be easily visible with the naked eye. Astronomers are urging stargazers to simply look to the east.

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People arrive on the Greek island of Lesbos during rainfall Wednesday, after crossing the Aegean Sea from Turkey on an inflatable dinghy. PETROS GIANNAKOURIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EU chief urges end to 'chaos'

REFUGEE CRISIS

Squabbling nations told to co-operate, secure borders

European Union President Donald Tusk urged divided EU nations to set aside their differences and work together to secure the bloc's borders as Europe struggles with its biggest refugee emergency in decades.

About half a million people have fled to Europe so far this year in search of sanctuary or jobs. As numbers swell, nations have tightened border security. Hungary has a razor-wire fence along its border with Serbia.

Countries in eastern Europe with little recent experience of migration are trading barbs over who is to blame, while Balkans neighbours Serbia and Croatia — who were at war in the early 1990s — issued threats and ultimatums.

"We must prepare a concrete plan, which must finally appear in place of the arguments and the chaos we have witnessed in the last weeks," Tusk told reporters before chairing the summit.

"The most urgent question we should ask ourselves tonight is how to regain control of our external borders. Otherwise it does not make sense to even speak of a common European migration policy."

As the leaders headed to Brussels, a further 5,000 migrants were converging on the Austrian border with Hungary, police said.

Serbia, meanwhile, gave EU member Croatia an ultimatum to reopen its border for all cargo transport by midnight Wednesday or face unspecified retaliation.

Among the outstanding issues that Tusk wants addressed is increasing assistance to EU member nations that are receiving the brunt of the refugee influx, and improving co-operation with non-EU countries. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"The current 'migration policy' is a sum of despair of the victims fleeing war and persecution ... of the cynicism of the smuggler.

European Union President Donald Tusk

Ad blockers hit revenues

INTERNET

Websites worry commercials could vanish like pop-ups

When you visit a website, you often find yourself waiting and waiting for advertisements to load. It doesn't have to be this way. There are easy ways to block such annoyances, and Apple is now permitting apps that block ads in its Web browser for iPhones and iPads.

All this might help users navigate, but it also threatens the livelihood of websites and publishers that depend heavily on advertising revenue — companies like Google, Hulu and The New York Times. While the rise in ad blocking isn't causing panic yet, publishers and content creators are watching.

Already, some websites are taking steps to reduce the annoyance so users won't turn to ad blockers.

"It is possible to be too alarmist about ad blockers, but it's a very real phenomenon," said Joshua Benton, director of the Nieman Journalism Lab at Harvard University.

Programs that block advertisements in browsers are threatening the livelihood of those that depend heavily on advertising revenue. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

It's one thing if just five per cent of iPhone users install an ad blocker; it's another if 80 per cent do, Benton said. If today's ad practices get too annoying, he said, they could disappear just like pop-up windows, which many browsers now block automatically in response to consumers' annoyance with them.

> **It is possible to be too alarmist ... but it's a very real phenomenon.**
> Joshua Benton

PageFair, a firm that seeks to counter ad blockers, says worldwide usage of ad blockers grew 41 per cent from last year to nearly 200 million people. That's six per cent of Internet users worldwide, including 16 per cent in the U.S., 37 per cent in Greece and 25 per cent in Germany. PageFair estimates these tools will block nearly $22 billion US in ad revenue this year and $41 billion US next year.

The threats to websites are about to get bigger. The ability to block ads, long available on traditional computers, arrived on Apple's mobile devices with a recent software update, iOS 9.

Google's Android system also allows ad blockers in Web browsers such as Firefox, as long as they don't affect unrelated apps.

Many websites already have countermeasures for ad blockers. Hulu, for instance, simply replaces commercials with an unskippable message.

Meanwhile, some companies are paying developers of ad blockers such as Adblock Plus for the right to bypass them. Companies that benefit a lot from search ads, like Google and Microsoft, pay for the privilege, the Financial Times reported. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Birthday song free for all

The company that has been collecting royalties on the song Happy Birthday To You for years does not hold a valid copyright on the lyrics to the tune, U.S. District Judge George H. King ruled. He determined the song's original copyright, obtained by the Clayton F. Summy Co. from the song's writers, covered only the tune's musical arrangement and not the lyrics. Good Morning To You Productions Corp. had challenged the copyright now held by Warner/Chappell Music Inc. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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GUEST EXPERTS

Looking for design inspiration? Check out the Main Stage, decorated by Across Ottawa Home Staging for everything from remodelling to decorating on a budget. Don't miss **Sarah Richardson**, host of *Sarah's Rental Cottage* on HGTV for the ultimate design advice on Friday, Sept. 25 from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Plus, see local favourites including Lee-Ann Lacroix, Mary Taggart, and Tanya Collins.

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Relative risk: The 12 reported deaths worldwide during attempted selfies — with a bear, with a live grenade, on a moving train — outnumber fatal shark attacks (8) so far this year.

CHANTAL HÉBERT: ON THE LEADERS' FACEOFF IN FRENCH

"Thomas Mulcair has more to lose than gain in Thursday's debate ... a commanding lead in Quebec is mostly what has kept the New Democrats in the game.

With his party's competitive position in national voting intentions hanging by a Quebec thread, NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair has more to lose than to gain in Thursday's French-language debate.

Since the campaign began, a commanding lead in Quebec is mostly what has kept the New Democrats in the game. But the status of front-runner comes at a price, and Mulcair will spend the first French-language debate of the campaign on the hot seat.

He absolutely needs to keep alive the prospect of a second Quebec orange wave. Absent a strong showing in the province's polls, the NDP's carefully constructed bid for power could crumble like a house of cards.

The party's narrative hangs on the notion that the New Democrats are best placed to beat the Conservatives next month. On the way to this week's French-language debate, that contention has been sorely tested.

If all had gone according to plan for the NDP, Justin Trudeau would no longer be a realistic contender for prime minister. With the Liberals lagging too far behind to have a shot at winning the election and the help of a cautious platform there would be an NDP wave in the making in Ontario.

So far, neither has happened.

Eight weeks and two English-language debates later — including one on the central issue of the economy — the Liberal leader is still standing and his party has gained more ground in public opinion, in particular in Ontario, than the NDP.

At this juncture, a slide in NDP support in Quebec could lead to a hemorrhage of support in other regions of the country as non-conservative voters coalesce behind the stronger opposition option.

Until this week, the main liability Mulcair was expected to take in the French-language debate was his support for the Energy East pipeline. That stance pits him against Green Party Leader Elizabeth May and Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles Duceppe, and it does not play well with Quebec's environmental activists.

But now the NDP leader is coming to the debate with a much larger target on his back.

In Quebec, the debate over whether Muslim women should be required to uncover their faces to take the oath of citizenship has given a moribund Bloc campaign a bit of a kiss of life.

Support for a veil ban runs high in Quebec. In the national assembly, a Liberal move to ban face coverings for public servants and for anyone using provincial government services enjoys multi-party support.

The NDP is not alone in opposing a niqab ban. So do the Liberals. But because the Bloc and the New Democrats fish in the same nationalist pool of francophone voters, Duceppe's attacks have focused on Mulcair.

Anecdotal and recent polling evidence suggest they are taking a toll.

At this juncture, the NDP's best hope of riding out the niqab controversy would be for the election conversation to move on to other topics. But with not one but two French-language debates on the agenda of the next two weeks and with the help of Bloc and Conservative ads, the niqab issue could be on the Quebec radar to stay.

A good debate for Duceppe on Thursday would be good news for Harper and Trudeau.

Every vote that the Bloc takes back from the NDP helps the Liberals and the Conservatives in their own local battles against the New Democrat tide.

The NDP has owned Quebec since the beginning of the campaign, but that could still change. Past history shows that the debates tend to focus Quebecers on their election choices — sometimes with unexpected results.

When he arrived on the set of the French-language debate in the last election, Duceppe had cause to believe he was bulletproof. His party was sitting on its usual comfortable lead. As the only Quebec leader on the set, he had the home advantage.

So widespread were those assumptions that those who covered the 2011 French-language debate did not come away with the impression that it had been a watershed moment.

A few days later, the NDP jumped in the lead in Quebec, and never looked back.

This year, the roles are reversed, with Mulcair the leader to beat and Duceppe the one to watch.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

THE MICROTREND: Mile-high mudras

The science is in: Sitting, especially for a long time (such as on a long-haul flight), is seriously risky to your health. But stretching can help, and it's not a stretch from that to full-blown yoga at 40,000 feet. The practice has taken off, not least because it can relieve stiffness and stress, and possibly reduce the risk of blood clots, which are associated with being sedentary for long periods. The craze has taken flight on the photo-sharing site Instagram. Even celebrities have posted snaps of themselves doing various contortions in the centre aisle in first class. The SkyTeam group of airlines has responded by adding yoga videos, designed to be done sitting, to its in-flight entertainment system — a definite advantage over sticking your stocking feet in your seatmates' face as you try to execute airplane pose while cruising over the Atlantic.

SOURCE: TRAVEL PULSE

metroview

If you can make meet-the-teacher night, great. No? Don't panic.

Catherine Little
For Metro

When I started teaching in the early 1990s, I was young. And I looked young. Very young. A rumour started to circulate that I had gone to university as a tween and was actually 13 years old.

I had an excellent start to my first year and no issues with the nearly 200 junior high school students I taught. However, as September drew to a close, I could tell the vice-principal worried about how I would do at meet-the-teacher night. Parents might equate my youth to inexperience or, worse, incompetence.

Meet-the-teacher, also known as curriculum night, usually happens at the end of September. Most involve barbecues, sitting on too-small chairs and being told not to ask specific questions about your own child.

This year in public schools in Ontario, these nights may be a casualty of the ongoing strife between the Elementary Teachers Association of Ontario and the provincial government. Similar job action by teachers has taken place all over the country, and there will likely be more of the same.

As far as academic success goes, the research seems to indicate that events like meet-the-teacher are nice, but not a necessity. The authors of a 2014 study in Child Development looked at parents' activities, including parent–teacher conferences and volunteering at school. They found no evidence that doing these things directly affected academic achievement. They did say they felt there might be some emotional benefit — essentially, it's good for children to know their parents care.

Similarly, an analysis of 37 studies that included over 80,000 students from kindergarten to Grade 12 in Educational Research Review found that parent participation in school activities had the least effect on student achievement. What had the most? Parental expectations, discussions of school activities with children and helping with reading topped the list.

So, if meet-the-teacher happens this year and fits into your schedule, great. If not, don't panic. Other things you can do will help more.

I have no idea who showed up to meet me that September evening my first year teaching. I do remember that my vice-principal sent an experienced teacher to stand at the back of my room in case I needed help. I didn't. But it was nice to know someone was there if I did — kind of like the message you send by having clear expectations for your child and discussing school activities with them.

Full disclosure: As a parent, I have attended every curriculum night since my son started kindergarten, and I intend to attend this year if there is one. Even though my son is starting Grade 8, I want to see the person he's about to spend more waking hours with than anyone else.

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Your essential daily news

Kevin Hart, Chris Christie are guests on Trevor Noah's first week as Daily Show host

150 YEARS IN *Wonderland*

The "meaning" of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland has been open to speculation for years: social satire, Oxford history, even a drug-induced hallucination. In honour of Alice's 150th anniversary, writer David Day is out with a comprehensive book that "decodes" Alice. He interprets a few for us here. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Illustrating Alice

"Scott (CS) Richardson, who designed the book, came up with this idea of doing these full spreads and using quotations. And he was the one who chose them ... (The illustrations) are all from the original Alice and what he's done is added a colour dimension and a quotation," says Day.

The Cover

You'll notice, when you're holding the book, that the figure of Alice on the front cover is pixilated, while the heart in the middle is clear and strong. In fact, it was designed that way for a number of reasons: if you look at it from far away (as you would in a bookstore display) the Alice is clear — it's only when you get closer that she loses her definition. "We pixilated it with the idea of decoding him," says Day, referring to author Lewis Carroll.

Crinoline Croquet

When Alice goes into the Queen's garden, that garden is based on Alice Liddell's house at Oxford — they had a croquet lawn at the back, which was the height of fashion at the time. Alice's mother made Croquet the centre of social life: "They frequently had these croquet parties, " says Day, "and all the women dressed up elaborately; it was the age of 'crinoline croquet.'"

Oracle of Delphi

This is a painting entitled Consulting the Oracle by John William Waterhouse. In Wonderland's Duchess' kitchen, Day explains that Carroll has created a parody of the Oracle of Delphi gone badly wrong. Instead of a high priestess who inhales fragrant vapours that inspire sacred prophecies, Wonderland's Ugly Duchess inhales smoke and pepper that inspires nonsense.

The Real Alice

"These photos are by Julia Margaret Cameron ... she would dress (Alice and her sisters) up as mythological figures." On the left, Alice is dressed as Aletheia, the Greek goddess of truth; on the right as Pomona, Roman goddess of fruitfulness.

Cheshire Cat

All the inhabitants of Wonderland, Day maintains, had real-life counterparts in Oxford Society. In this picture, the Cheshire Cat represents Christ Church college's Canon Edward Bouverie Pusey (puss, get it?) who was one of the most influential churchmen of his time. Conservative Puseyites opposed liberal reforms introduced by Alice's father, the Dean of Christ Church. Here the King and Queen of Hearts, who Day reveals as the Dean and Mrs. Liddell, are much annoyed by Canon Pusey's avatar.

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As countries change, so do all of us

JOSIP NOVAKOVICH

Man Booker finalist finds light in our dark realities

Emina Gamulin
Metro | Canada

An American-born translator goes to Bosnia to work for the UN, only to discover rape camps that her employer turns a blind eye to (or worse, participates in).

After losing everything else in his life when Serb rebel forces take over his village, a Croatian man turns to his bees for comfort and protection.

A Serbian man who once lived in Croatia but was displaced by the war waits for his cousin to arrive on a train that never seems to come.

These are some of the experiences explored in Ex-Yu, but according to the author of these fictions based loosely on the Balkan wars of the '90s, the collection is as much about transformation as it is about destruction.

"The title is a pun on Ex-Yugoslavia, and the former you," says Croatian-Canadian writer Josip Novakovich on the phone from Montreal, about his latest — a gripping, tragic, often strange, absurd, and sometimes laugh-out-loud funny short-story collection published this month by Vehicule Press. "Many countries pass and change, so do we, even if we might not be aware of how much we change."

He quotes the philosopher Heraclitus, who said that you can't step in the same river twice. "Usually we just think about how the river changes — the water is always new, the new schools of fish are passing through, but you too, are different."

As philosophical as Novakovich is, he also thinks pragmatically. When asked why Ex-Yu includes a cannibalistic tale that takes place nowhere near Southeastern Europe, he admits it made it into the pile because his last publisher refused to release it, deeming it too horrifying. It's also a continuation, he says, of an earlier collection that chiefly concerns itself with friendship versus survival versus tribe loyalty.

In a way it fits, despite the geographical divergence, because the collection is so dark. There's ghosts of the horrors of the Second World War; Dutch guilt over the Srebrenica massacre; a bad batch of an early measles vaccination; lung cancer.

"Things don't have to happen, but we fear they will happen, and sometimes they do happen. Death is something that only happens once, but it is always in the background of our minds — how will I go and how will those around me go?" says Novakovich.

He believes it's cathartic to face our fears in art and that looking only at happiness is neither possible, nor, perhaps, desirable.

"I read a remarkable article about (Serbian tennis star) Novak Djokovic recently. He was asked if he just thinks positive during matches. And he said he tried it and it doesn't work — he has to do both," Novakovich says. "He can't eliminate the (bad) stuff and he figured out that it's better if he doesn't. You can't completely ignore that life is partly a horror story." Plus, Novakovich says, offering a less existential explanation — his dark stuff sells better. "I publish these stories more easily, say, than the stories about my cats."

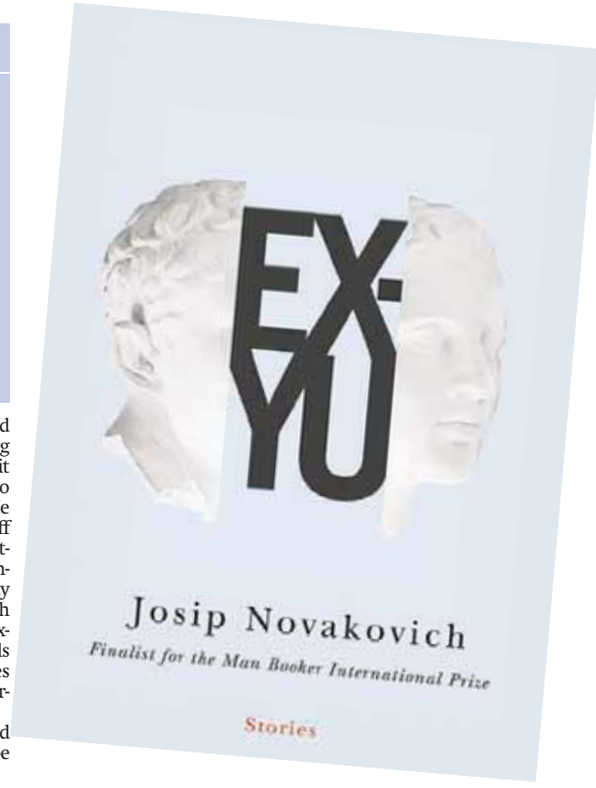
Josip Novakovich will read from Ex-Yu in Toronto at Type Books on Oct. 16.

'FAN FICTION'

While the majority of the characters in Ex-Yu are ordinary people, the collection includes some infamous real-life characters.

Novakovich jokingly refers to these stories as "fan-fiction." In one, we catch up with Slobodan Milosevic in jail at the Hague just months before the verdict of his war-crimes tribunal. The fallen leader, now impotent, demands Viagra, despite his doctor's warnings.

The title, Just Desserts, perhaps alludes to the satisfaction Novakovich felt reimagining Milosevic's last days. "It was a known thing that he was sabotaging his medical care, not taking his blood pressure pills so most likely it was just massive heart failure," says Novakovich, a medical-school dropout. "But that can also happen with Viagra in such conditions, so I thought 'Why not make fun of it?'"



Author faces off against Nic Cage critics

Author Lindsay Gibb believes Nicolas Cage is one of the most divisive actors of our generation. HANDOUT IMAGES

FANDOM

Defending the actor only made Gibb love him more

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

Lindsay Gibb didn't set out to become a fierce defender of Nicolas Cage. It was only after a 2012 retrospective of the enigmatic actor's films at the TIFF Bell Lightbox that the Toronto librarian and former editor of Broken Pencil magazine realized the depths of her fandom.

"I liked him a lot but I wasn't as obsessed with him as I am now," she recalls.

While most pop-culture aficionados are content simply sharing their enthusiasm with Facebook friends, Gibb turned her obsession into a book. National Treasure: Nicolas Cage is the latest in ECW Press's Pop Classics series, a line of digestible essays that spotlight cultural touchstones such as Elvis Costello, Twin Peaks, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and the stripper schlockfest, Showgirls.

Except for perhaps Keanu Reeves, there is no contemporary actor who divides audiences and opinions — or inspired as many memes — as Cage. Beyond his eccentric off-screen life (purchasing saber-tooth tigers and dinosaur skulls, his Elvis obsession, whirlwind marriages), Gibb suggests Cage's screen presence is so polarizing because he's impossible to pigeonhole.

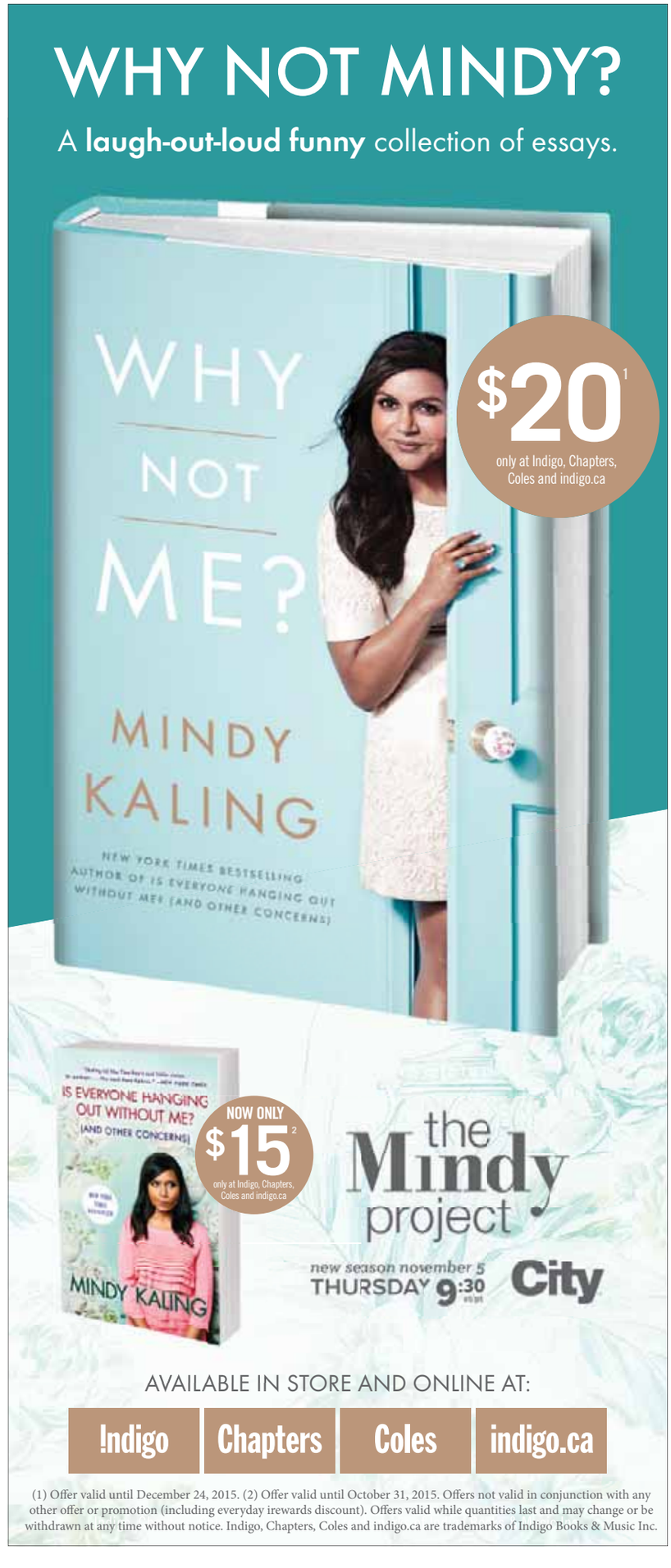
"From one movie to the next you don't really know what to expect," she says. "People have a certain kind of vision of him because they've seen him in a certain kind of movie, but then he'll go ahead and do something like The Sorcerer's Apprentice."

To prepare for National Treasure, Gibb watched all of Cage's work — an impressive feat considering he's appeared in more than 70 films. Inspired by the TIFF retrospective, Gibb, who calls Vampire's Kiss and Wild at Heart among her favourites, began hosting a monthly Cage movie night in her condo's theatre room. When she started writing the book, she knew she had to take a more critical approach. "I was trying to look at them through the eyes of, 'What is he doing?' I was looking for links between his movies, and trying to see what he was trying to do with his acting style," she says. "He has this intensity, or bombastic style, where he gets hyper in the middle of a movie that is consistent throughout his films."

In the introduction to the book, Gibb writes, "Having to constantly defend something you like can you love it more fiercely." She dismisses critics who have an unwavering bias against Cage and his on-screen antics.

"There are definitely writers who have a certain take on him — he's a second-rate actor that's always going to chew the scenery," she says. "People have their set opinions, and don't let his performance influence their opinion. They've just decided he's the worst. And then there are people like me. I'll always find at least a nugget in his not-so-great films, and see something interesting."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.



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GOSSIP BRIEFS

Breakup season

Can we blame all these celebrity breakups on the impending holiday season, or is it too soon for that?

I'm not saying that's what's behind Amy Poehler's split from Nick Kroll after two years of dating, but it's a pretty good theory, right? Or this: "Unfortunately, they just couldn't make the relationship work with their schedules," a source tells Us Weekly. "They really tried, but it just wasn't realistic anymore. They were spending more time apart than together."

Sure, but for some couples that's actually a plus.

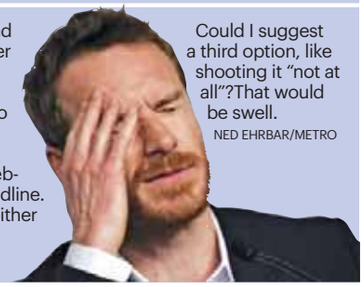
NED EHRBAR/METRO

No more sequels please

Ridley Scott has a new movie coming out — The Martian — which means he's been doing a bunch of interviews catching people up on all those sequels he's been threatening to make, like his ill-advised followup to Blade Runner.

Even more disconcerting? He's apparently serious about continuing the terrible Prometheus franchise, sending the disembodied head of Michael Fassbender back to work early next year.

"Fassbender will do (Prometheus 2) with me, and it's meant to start production in February," Scott tells Deadline. "I'm in prep now. I'll either shoot in (Australia) or (Canada)."



Could I suggest a third option, like shooting it "not at all"?That would be swell.

NED EHRBAR/METRO

HOME VIDEO

JLo: Love costs a lot

Jennifer Lopez's first husband, Ojani Noa — you probably don't remember him — has a bunch of home movies from way back when, and he and business partner Ed Meyer are eager to let them loose on the world. How rude.

"We are going to produce a DVD and also have a streaming release of the JLo home video footage," Meyer says, according to InTouch.

"There is revealing video of her with a lack of clothing and in sexual situations, especially in the hotel footage from the honeymoon."

Lopez, Noa and Meyer have been locked in a legal battle for more than six years, but Lopez withdrew all of her claims against them over the summer.

"The videos contain salacious material and are going to shock her fans," Meyer adds. "We have unfinished business." He sounds charming, doesn't he?

NED EHRBAR/METRO

W NETWORK

Hockey wives signed

W Network has scored four more cast members for its docuseries Hockey Wives, including the wives of Montreal Canadiens goalie Carey Price and Anaheim Ducks captain Ryan Getzlaf. The second season will feature Angela Price and Paige Getzlaf (pictured with her hubby), says W Network.

Other cast additions include Taylor Winnik, wife of Toronto Maple Leafs left winger Daniel Winnik, and Ashley Booth, wife of free agent David Booth. They join previously announced partners Keshia Chante, Rhianna Weaver, Kodette LaBarbera, Tiffany Parros, Noureen DeWulf, Maripier Morin and Martine Forget.

Hockey Wives returns Oct. 28.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kendall's rumoured romances

DATING

Michael B. Jordan denies dating Kendall Jenner, kinda

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Hollywood

While we're still waiting for Orlando Bloom to chime in about whether or not he's been playing kissy-kissy with Kendall Jenner, at least one other older man linked to Not Kylie is going on the record to address whether or not they're dating.

Fantastic Four star Michael B. Jordan stoked romance rumours earlier this year when he was spotted leaving a Met Gala party with Jenner, but he wants you all to calm down.

"It's the world we live in. They see white and black. I don't," he tells GQ. "Kendall's a friend of mine, you know? I don't know her, like, that well, but I know her enough. People's perspective on that is what it is. I don't f—ing know. I don't live my life to make other people happy. It's so weird, though, right? A lot of black fans were feeling like 'Oh, my God, he should have been with a black woman' and that whole thing."

Kendall is just keeping us all guessing.

Well, at least all this attention being diverted away from Bloom must make him happy, right?

Jordan says Jenner 'a friend' only. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

metro HOME

Your essential daily news

Alessi marks 30th anniversary of its 9093 tea kettle by swapping out bird whistle with dragon

What they're a$king

Featured here is a selection of brand new townhome projects. We compare two-bedroom units in various forms including stacks, urban towns, condo towns, and even a rent-to-own. **Duncan McAllister** FOR METRO

ASKING PRICES WERE ACCURATE AT TIME OF PUBLISHING.

$288,800

Ottawa

Eastboro is a new self-contained community by Ashcroft Homes at 3253 Navan Rd. It offers the perfect blend of country-comfort style that's just far enough out of the city. Here's a two-bedroom unit in the Urban Towns with 1,580 square feet of living space. Great emphasis has been given to each and every detail within this unique residential retreat. Contact the sales centre at 613-834-4319 or visit ashcroft-homes.com.

$315,950

Edmonton

This spacious unit is available at the Graydon Hill townhomes, one of several ALTIUS projects by Streetside Development, located at Ellerslie Road SW. The Robson unit, with three levels and 1,292 square feet of living space, features double master suites, an oversized pantry, upstairs laundry and an open-concept main floor. There's also a private, attached double car garage, a six-piece appliance package, and laminate and tile flooring. Call the sales centre at 587-524-4150 or visit altiusgraydonhuill@qualico.com.

$1,695 PER MONTH

Halifax

The Knolls of Glen Arbour is a new townhouse development by Greater Construction located at Sandy Run. The development has a total of 43 units. The Turnberry is a rent-to-own unit, with an open-concept, all-on-one-level design. A large master suite with full bath and a walk-in closet plus a guest bedroom and second full bath complete the main floor. There's also a two-car garage. For more information, contact 902-431-3200 or contact@unitedgulf.ca.

$538,688

Calgary

Here's a new two-bedroom-plus-den at The Savoy by Truman Homes. This community of condominiums and townhomes is located on Kensington Road and 19th Street NW, in the community of West Hillhurst. The units feature engineered hardwood floors, Italian marble tile, quartz countertops, designer lighting and plumbing fixtures, and imported Italian kitchens and appliances. The area has many amenities ranging from coffee shops to grocers, and the Peace Bridge is a short walk away. Call 403-240-3246 or visit liveatsavoy.com.

$339,900

Vancouver

York by Mosaic Homes is a collection of two- and three-bedroom, shingle-style rowhomes in Langley. These townhomes feature open floor plans with nine-foot ceilings and large bay windows. There's a kitchen island, luxurious bathrooms and raised backyards. The homes are well connected to transit, and boast mountain views, greenways, parks and schools. The starting price above is for a 1,199-square-foot, two-bedroom-plus-den unit. For more information, contact 604-882-6758 or visit mosaichomes.com/york.

$284,900

Toronto

Main Street Seaton is a new project by Averton Homes in the suburb of Pickering. The heritage-inspired brownstone townhomes are composed of three different styles, with contemporary stacked Urban towns, back-to-back Garden towns, and conventional back-to-back Coach towns. The homes feature engineered laminate flooring and open-concept kitchens. The Seaton area is close to hiking trails and golfing, as well as the Pickering Town Centre and GO transit. Contact the sales centre at 416-740-5544, info@averton.ca.

$299,900

Winnipeg

The Bluestem development is the first townhome condominium in the explosively popular Sage Creek subdivision. These three-storey towns with attached garages also include back decks and front porches, and easy access to convenient walking paths. Sage Creek has an established and growing village centre, with proximity to the shops on Regent Avenue and the St. Vital Centre. The starting price above is for a two-bedroom, 2.5-bathroom home. Check it out at bluestemcondos.ca.

DESIGN CENTRE SITTING PRETTY IN ANY SPACE

Soon it will be the season for holiday entertaining and you will need a few extra places for guests to perch. From poufs and floor pillows to benches, there are some groovy options that will offer up practical style without breaking the piggy bank. **KARL LOHNES/FOR METRO**

1 Tufted Fabric and Chrome Double Bench
At the end of a bed or in a tight hallway; I like to think of it as the new modern piano stool. $99, Walmart.ca

2 Aztec Pouf
Get your black and white pattern going on and wake up any space. $99, UrbanBarn.com

3 Real Simple Split-Top Bench Storage Unit
There are 10 million uses for this one; what's yours? $120, BedBathAndBeyond.ca

4 EQ3 Roman Bean Bag
Keep it fun and flowery. $400, TheBay.com

5 Mongolian Fur and Lucite Bench
Hollywood glamour meets Liberace. $500, Homesense.ca

6 Pier Braided Pouf
Neutral texture that any room would love. $129, UrbanBarn.com

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Your essential daily news

Oklahoma City's Kevin Durant has been cleared to play after a series of right-foot injuries

Prince, Puempel vying for spot on left wing

SENATORS

22-year-olds both had taste of NHL action last season

> **I was told just play like last year and that's what I'm trying to do.**
> Matt Puempel

After getting a brief taste of the NHL last season, Matt Puempel wants to do whatever it takes to get back to the big leagues.

To get there, he'll have to beat out another young, hungry forward in Shane Prince.

The two 22-year-old left-wingers are the favourites fighting for a lone spot on the Ottawa Senators roster.

An opening was created after unrestricted free agent Erik Condra chose to sign with the Tampa Bay Lightning this past summer. Puempel and Prince quickly realized what it could mean for their future.

"I was here on free agency day and (assistant general manager) Pierre Dorion came up to me and asked me if I was happy," Puempel said. "It definitely makes you a little bit more motivated and when you see a light like that at the end of the tunnel. It makes you push a little harder in the summer."

The two were drafted in 2011 — Puempel was a first-round pick, 24th overall, while Prince was selected 61st overall.

Both players were recalled by the Senators last season, but it was Puempel who had the better opportunity with two goals and an assist in 13 games before suffering a high ankle sprain that ended his season. In comparison Prince played just two games and had one assist.

The Senators signed Prince to a one-year, two-way extension this summer and many believe he has the inside track to start the season in the NHL because he would have to clear waivers whereas Puempel wouldn't.

Both had the opportunity to plead their case Wednesday night when the Senators took on the Buffalo Sabres in preseason action.

"For those guys I want to see that they can think the game," said head coach Dave Cameron. "I want to see that they can play without the puck as well as they can with the puck. I think both guys have the designation that they're offensive guys, but to play in the NHL for those two guys they have to establish their game first and their game is a 200-foot game as good without the puck as you are good with it and then the offence will come off of that." THE CANADIAN PRESS

STATS

Prince led the Binghamton Senators in scoring last season with 28 goals and 37 assists and finished sixth in AHL scoring.

Matt Puempel was drafted 24th overall in 2011. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Angels gain more ground on Astros

David Freese hit a go-ahead two-run double in a three-run eighth inning to help the Los Angeles Angels rally for a 6-5 win over the Houston Astros on Wednesday to close in on the second AL wild-card spot.

Los Angeles took two of three in the series and pulled to within 1-1/2 games of Houston. The Astros fell to 2-1/2 games behind AL West-leading Texas, which played later Wednesday in Oakland.

The Astros took their first lead of the game in the seventh, and the Angels trailed 4-3 entering the eighth. Mike Trout hit a leadoff double off Will Harris (5-5) before David Murphy drew a walk with one out and Harris was replaced by Pat Neshek.

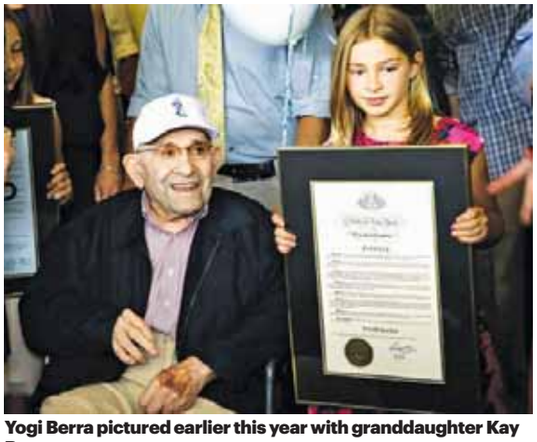
Go to metronews.ca for coverage of Wednesday night's Blue Jays-Yankees game.

Freese's double sailed just beyond left-fielder Colby Rasmus' reach on the warning track and made it 5-4. Carlos Perez's RBI single made it 6-4 and chased Neshek.

Trevor Gott (3-2) induced the last two outs of the seventh for the win, and Huston Street allowed one run in the ninth before retiring Jed Lowrie for his 40th save.

George Springer had three RBIs and Carlos Correa added two for the Astros, who dropped two of three to the Angels heading into a pivotal weekend series with Texas. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Angels' Taylor Featherston throws over the Astros George Springer on Wednesday in Houston. BOB LEVEY/GETTY IMAGES



Yogi Berra pictured earlier this year with granddaughter Kay Berra. MEL EVANS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OBITUARY

Beloved Yankee Berra dead at 90

The lovable legend of Yogi Berra, that ain't ever gonna be over.

The Hall of Fame catcher renowned as much for his lovable, linguistically dizzying "Yogi-isms" as his unmatched 10 World Series championships with the New York Yankees, died Tuesday. He was 90.

Berra, who filled baseball's record book as well as Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, died of natural causes at his home in New Jersey, according to Dave Kaplan, the director of the Yogi Berra Museum.

R.I.P.

Berra died on the same date, Sept. 22, as his big-league debut 69 years earlier.

Berra played in more World Series games than any other major leaguer, and was a three-time American League Most Valuable Player.

For many, though, he was even better known for all those amusing "Yogi-isms."

"It ain't over till it's over" is among eight of them included in Bartlett's.

"When I'm sittin' down to dinner with the family, stuff just pops out. And they'll say, 'Dad, you just said another one.' And I don't even know what the heck I said," Berra insisted.

Short, squat and with a homely mug, Berra was a Yankees great who helped the team reach 14 World Series during his 18 seasons in the Bronx.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOXING FURY NOT SO SERIOUS AHEAD OF KLITSCHKO BOUT Towering six-foot-nine British fighter Tyson Fury entered Wednesday's news conference for his fight with Wladimir Klitschko dressed as Batman and even fought the Joker in what was a clearly staged performance. Fury (24-0) challenges Klitschko (64-3) for his WBA, WBO and IBF titles in Duesseldorf, Germany on Oct. 24. FRANK AUGSTEIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

France beat Romania in less than convincing fashion
France said it was inspired to be playing a Rugby World Cup match at the Olympic Stadium where Usain Bolt performed with distinction in 2012. The French won in the end on Wednesday, beating Romania 38-11, but it wasn't a performance that was going to inspire Bolt.

France struggled to put away the limited Romanians. It was France's second win from two matches in Pool D. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pocock shines for Aussies as brave Fiji fall again
Australia struggled to put away a spirited Fiji side playing its second game in five days at the Rugby World Cup, winning 28-13 mainly thanks to a quick brace of first-half tries from No. 8 David Pocock on Wednesday.

Pocock twice dived over at the base of rolling mauls to help the Australians to an 18-3 halftime lead in their first Pool A game of the tournament. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Swiss AG wants FIFA to hand over Valcke emails
Switzerland's Attorney General Michael Lauber wants FIFA to hand over emails used by Jerome Valcke, its secretary general who was suspended last week.

Valcke was implicated by a FIFA ticketing partner in using his FIFA and Google email accounts to discuss a 2014 World Cup black market tickets deal. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Celta Vigo shocks Barca, Real on top

LA LIGA

Deadly Aspas stuns champs, Benzema on fire for Madrid

Celta Vigo swept to a shock 4-1 victory over Barcelona, while Real Madrid went top of the Spanish league with a 2-1 win over Athletic Bilbao Wednesday on a mixed night for the title contenders.

Two goals by Iago Aspas helped Celta to a convincing victory over Barcelona and second place in the table, level on 13 points with Madrid after five rounds. Celta is second for having conceded more goals than the capital club. The loss saw Barcelona drop to fifth.

"There is always a day when your opponent is superior and can win all the balls and beat you in every individual duel and doesn't give you a chance — as has happened today," Barcelona defender Javier Mascherano said.

"There are no excuses; they beat us deservedly."

Karim Benzema scored twice for Madrid, opening the scoring in the 19th minute after intercepting a terrible back-pass by Mikel San Jose and racing forward to steer the ball past goalkeeper Gorka Iraizoz.

Sabin Merino equalized with a header, the first goal Madrid goalkeeper Keylor Navas has conceded this season, but Benzema scored his fifth goal so far this season after latching onto Francisco (Isco) Alarcon's pass in the 70th.

Elsewhere, Rayo Vallecano beat Sporting Gijon 2-1 and Levante drew 2-2 with Eibar. Villarreal beat Malaga 1-0, while Sevilla — that has yet to win a match this season and is bottom of the league — lost 2-0 to newly promoted Las Palmas in the Canary Islands.

Manuel (Nolito) Agudo opened the scoring in the 25th minute at Celta's Balaidos Stadium with a lofted shot that Barcelona goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen got his fingertips to, but couldn't keep out. It was the attacking midfielder's fifth goal this season.

Barcelona conceded again three minutes later when Aspas pounced on a poor pass by Gerard Pique, raced forward and lifted the ball over Ter Stegen.

Aspas then sprinted up the field and side-footed the ball past a stranded Ter Stegen in the 55th. Neymar pulled one back for Barcelona by powering in Lionel Messi's pass in the 80th, but Sweden forward John Guidetti made it 4-1 from close range three minutes later.

Messi had forced a fine save in the first half and hit the post in the second on a luckless night for the Argentina forward.

"I prefer to be beaten by a team like Celta that plays a very clean game," said Barcelona coach Luis Enrique, whose side is one point behind the league leaders. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

REST OF EUROPE

Borrussia Dortmund's club record winning streak of 11 games came to end Wednesday when they drew 1-1 away to Hoffenheim.

Both Chelsea and Manchester United has easy wins in the Capital One Cup 3rd round over Walsall and Ipswich respectively while Arsenal knocked out rivals Tottenham 2-1 thanks to a double from Mathieu Flamini.

Elsewhere, Liverpool scraped into Round 4 against League 2 opposition Carlisle, beating the minnows on penalties 3-2 at Anfield following a 1-1 scoreline after extra time. METRO

WEDNESDAY In Vigo

4	1
CELTA VIGO	BARCELONA

Luis Suarez of FC Barcelona goes to ground against Celta Vigo on a bad night for the reigning La Liga champions. ALEX CAPARROS/GETTY IMAGES

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RECIPE Green Gazpacho

After hosting countless sunset dinner parties for friends and family, Katie Lee, co-host of The Food Network's The Kitchen, compiled her favourite summer recipes and entertaining tips into the Endless Summer Cookbook released earlier this year.

Here she shares a recipe for green gazpacho, "The avocado in this recipe adds an extra element of creaminess, and the lime juice evens out the flavors of the onion, garlic, and jalapeno."

Serves 6-8

Ingredients

- 2 pounds Green Zebra tomatoes, cored and coarsely chopped, plus 1 Green Zebra tomato, cut into small wedges, for garnish
- 1 unpeeled seedless cucumber, coarsely chopped, plus 1 finely diced unpeeled cucumber for garnish
- 1 sweet onion, coarsely chopped
- 1 Hass avocado, chopped
- 1 small jalapeno, seeded
- 1 clove garlic
- 2 Tbsp fresh lime juice
- 1 cup cold water
- 2 Tbsp fresh mint leaves, chopped, plus more whole leaves for garnish
- 2 Tbsp fresh cilantro leaves
- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil, plus more for drizzling
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Directions

1. In a blender, combine half of the coarsely chopped tomatoes, cucumber, and onion with the avocado, jalapeno, garlic, lime juice, and 1 cup cold water and blend until smooth. Transfer the purée to a large bowl.

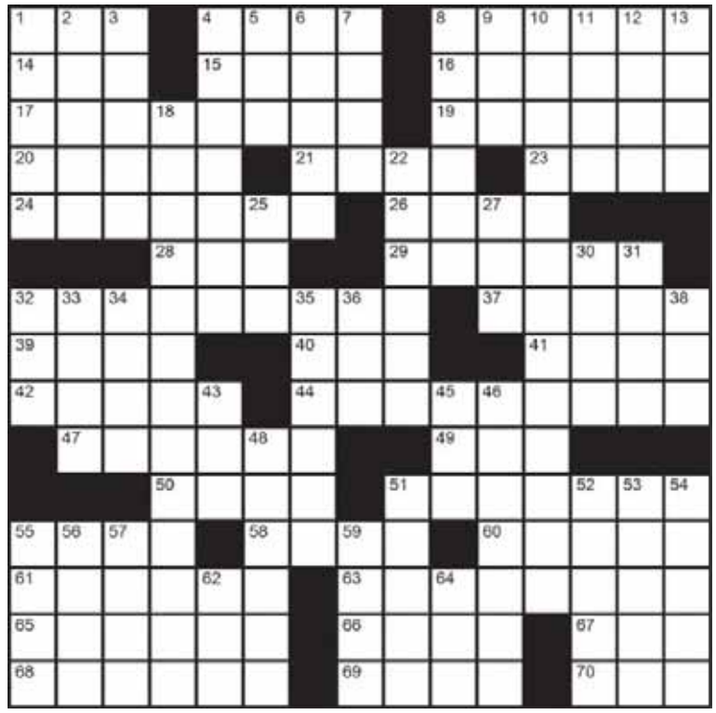
2. Add the remaining coarsely chopped tomatoes, cucumber, and onion to the blender along with the mint, cilantro, and oil and pulse to a chunky purée. Add the purée to the bowl and stir well. Refrigerate the soup until well chilled, about 1 hour.

3. Season the soup with salt and pepper to taste. Garnish with tomato wedges, diced cucumber, and mint leaves, and finish with a drizzle of oil. Serve cold.

AFP

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS

1. Paraguay/Brazil border river
4. Flee
8. Action hero played by "The Simpsons" character Rainier Wolfcastle
14. Mr. Bellamy
15. Narrative
16. Certain graduate
17. Football field
19. Transplant the plant
20. Let the tea sit
21. Legal occupation [abbr.]
23. Bellow
24. Beat
26. Bionic Woman's hometown in California
28. Edwin McCain's "__ Be"
29. Shows direction
32. Southern Alberta village near Lethbridge
37. Haida Gwaii - British Columbia... Anthony Island village which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, __ Gwaay Llnagaay
39. __ B'rith
40. Tic-tac-toe win
41. Hold
42. Terra __
44. Tiered temples of ancient Mesopotamia
47. "Would you like me to?": 2 wds.
49. Numero __
50. Umbrella weather
51. Steadfast
55. H.G. Wells people
58. Decorative curved arch
60. Prefix with 'red'
61. Famous role for Johnny Weissmuller (b.1904 - d.1984)
63. Snugly wraps
65. Monty Python-er John
66. Manage
67. Summer hrs. in Toronto
68. Baroque composer of the oratorio Messiah
69. Inputted info [abbr.]
70. __ v. Wade

DOWN

1. Anxiety
2. Eastern Ontario town; or, Western Australia city
3. "Bon voyage!"
4. Draw in a dotted manner
5. Automobile
6. Take __ off (Relax)
7. Sleeping bag 'room'
8. Tori & Dean... Toronto-born chef/author Ms. Eustace: 2 wds.
9. Cavs, on a scoreboard
10. Old __ __ (Halifax cemetery founded in 1749 which is a National Historic Site of Canada)
11. Farm song bit: "Here __ __, there..."
12. "__ __ pronounce you..." (Altar words)
13. Of all of Canada [abbr.]
18. DMZ = __ Zone (Area separating North and South Korea)
22. Champion/leader: 2 wds.
25. Gremlin
27. Three-toed sloths
30. Scarlett's home
31. Annoyed state
32. American network
33. Artist Yoko, and surnamesakes
34. Tub
35. Flowing like molasses
36. French 'king'
38. Paper map's techie alternative
43. Tenn. neighbour
45. Stomach
46. Without assistance
48. Oscar-winner Mr. Barrymore
51. Apply a shirt button: 2 wds.
52. Raven, Cowboy or Patriot, e.g.
53. Words to live by
54. Potentially careless swiftness
55. Inscribe
56. Los Angeles = __ __ Land
57. _-__ Ishii ('Kill Bill' character)
59. 'Conval' suffix (Recuperate)
62. Peer Gynt's mother
64. __. No. (Building dweller's unit)

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
You should find it a lot easier to sit down with others and discuss your problems. Prepare to meet them halfway and your relationships will go from strength to strength.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Focus on the small print to make sure you are getting a good deal. You will have no one to blame but yourself if you overlook some apparently minor fact or figure and end up missing out on a major opportunity.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Take advantage of the good things on offer and don't doubt for a moment that you deserve them. You have done so much good for others, now let them do something for you.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Get tough with someone who refuses to face up to their problems. You could approach them with kindness but they've had plenty of that already. Tell them in no uncertain terms where they are going wrong.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Someone is a bit depressed and needs you to cheer them up. Calm their fears and remind them that life is still wonderful — and you are a wonderful friend.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You are strongly advised to make no hard and fast decisions until you have talked things over with people you trust. It could mean the difference between a big profit or a loss.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
A whole new chapter in your life has begun and you will soon forget about recent worries and woes. The plans you make now will set you on a more exciting course through life.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Partners and loved ones will want you to join in with their plans today and you would be wise to make the effort. The more you do for others now the more they will do for you.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You have a great deal of emotional energy at your disposal now — use it wisely. The last thing you want is to find yourself bickering with partners and loved ones for no good reason. Always aim for your highest ideal.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The Sun in Libra at this time of the year can help you reach your rightful place in the world which is, of course, at the very top. Give some thought as to what you want to accomplish and then make it happen.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Something is about to happen that will force you to question your view of the world, especially if that view is ultra rational and materialistic. Don't fight against it. The world is a stranger place than you know.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
You do not need to ask permission to enjoy yourself, nor do you need to ask if it's okay to make money. Great riches can be yours.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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